

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01 /057 W

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O 091616Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3039

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 6749

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: MRS. PERON SAYS SHE WILL COME BACK

REF: A. BA 6731 AND B. BA 6699

1. VIRTUALLY ALL OBSERVERS WERE SURPRISED AND PERONIST ANTI-
VERTICALISTAS WERE BITTERLY DISAPPOINTED LAST NIGHT WHEN IT
WAS ANNOUNCED THAT MRS. PERON WILL REASSUME OFFICE ON OCT 16,
AND WILL ATTEND A MASS RALLY AT THE PLAZA DE MAYO ON OCT 17.
AS OF YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, THERE WAS GROWING CONVICTION THAT
ROBLEDO AND LUDER HAD TALKED HER INTO STAYING ON LEAVE.
EARLIER REPORTS (SEE REF A) THAT ROBLEDO HAD IN MORNING CONVERSA-
TION TRIED TO CONVINCE HER NOT TO RESUME PRESIDENCY APPARENTLY
MAY HAVE BEEN IN ERROR. PRESS THIS MORNING REPORTS "SOME
PERONIST SOURCES" TO HAVE SAID THAT ON CONTRARY, HE STRONGLY
URGED HER TO RETURN. EMBASSY IS CANVASSING VARIOUS PERONIST
SOURCES TO TRY TO DETERMINE WHICH ROLE ROBLEDO IN FACT TOOK.

2. APPARENTLY IN RESPONSE TO YESTERDAY'S PRESS SPECULATION
THAT MILITARY DID NOT BELIEVE A SICK PRESIDENT COULD LEAD
STRUGGLE AGAINST TERRORISM, MRS. PERON'S PERSONAL DOCTOR,
PEDRO VASQUEZ, YESTERDAY EVENING WAS QUOTED AS SAYING
THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH COULD NOT BE BETTER, THAT INDEED
SHE WAS IN SUCH GOOD HEALTH THAT IT WAS IMPERATIVE SHE
GET BACK TO WORK.

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3. DIEHARD VERTICALISTAS ARE EUPHORIC OVER ANNOUNCEMENT OF MRS. PERON'S RETURN, AND ARE SAYING THEY WILL FILL THE PLAZA DE MAYO ON OCT 17 TO SHOW THAT MRS. PERON STILL HAS SUPPORT OF THE MASSES.

4. IF VERTICALISTAS ARE PLEASED, ANTIVERTICALISTAS ARE DISMAYED. ONE ANTIVERTICALISTA SOURCE COMMENTED TO EMBOFF THIS MORNING THAT "IF MRS. PERON IS INDEED FOOLISH ENOUGH TO REASSUME THE PRESIDENCY, SHE WILL BRING DOWN THE HOUSE ON ALL OF US".

5. COMMENT: SITUATION IS AT MOMENT VERY CONFUSED. MRS. PERON'S ANNOUNCEMENT HAS MUDDIED WATERS CONSIDERABLY AND THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF UNCERTAINTY AMONG ALL POLITICAL OBSERVERS AS TO HOW VARIOUS PLAYERS LINE UP. EMBASSY WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH SEVERAL INSIDE SOURCES DURING THE DAY, AND WILL SEND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS SOONEST. IT MAY BE THAT, AS CAFIERO INDICATED TO AMB HILL (SEE REF B), SHE WILL REASSUME PRESIDENCY ONLY FOR A FEW DAYS.
HILL

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